



Oral History

of
William Julian
Interviewed by
Denny Holland and Paul Tritaik

Part 1 of 2

Name: William Julian

Date of Interview: November 1, 2012

Location of Interview: Caddo Lake NWR,
Karnack, TX

Interviewer: Denny Holland and Paul Tritaik

Years worked for Fish and Wildlife Service:
30 + years.

Offices and Field Stations Worked, Positions

Held: Bolsque del Apache, New Mexico (as student assistant); Sabine National Wildlife Refuge, Louisiana (GS3); Delta National Wildlife Refuge, Louisiana (GS9-manager); Big Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Arkansas (GS7-acting clerk, assistant manager); Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge, Tennessee (GS9, assistant manager); South Florida Complex including Loxahatchee, Key Deer, Sanibel, Pelican Island, Florida; Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge, Georgia (manager); Blackwater National Wildlife including Mason Neck, Glenn Martin, and Susquehanna, Maryland (GS12); Felsenthal National Wildlife, Arkansas (GS12).

Most Important Projects: Obtaining 3,000 Acres next to Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge from an estate holding.

Colleagues and Mentors: Mentor: Vandiver L.

Childs; Colleagues: John Ellis, Joe Withers, Tommy Wood, Otis Mouton, Claude Lard, Walter Stieglitz, Nell Prior, Clyde Lee, Walt Price, Johnny Lynch, Walt Gresh, Ira Westbrook, Even Rude, Vick Kay, Roystm (Rudy) R. Rudolph, Curtis Wilson, Jack Watson, Larry Givens, Carl Farminic, Jack Perkins, George Garris, Denny Holland, John DeLime, Stanley Marshall.

ABSTRACT: As a young man, William (Bill) Julian joined the military and spent time in Colorado and Texas before going to Italy. After being discharged from the military, Bill decided to go home and farm before he figured there had to be something better out there. He then started taking wildlife management courses at A&M and worked at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge as a student assistant before graduating in 1951 and attaining full time employment with the Fish and Wildlife Service. He discusses his time spent with the Fish and Wildlife Service, including some of his experiences, fellow employees and stories.



Oral History

of
William Julian
Interviewed by
Denny Holland and Paul Tritaik

Oral History

DH: November the 1st, 2012 9:30 am.
We're at Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge headquarters interviewing Mr. Bill Julian and Mrs. Julian, Helen. With me, Dennis Holland, is Paul Tritaik; I'm a retiree, Paul is present manager down at J.N. Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge. Mr. Julian started with the National Wildlife Refuge a few years ago after a military career. Bill, were you drafted?

WJ: No I volunteered.

DH: Okay how old were you when that happened?

WJ: Seventeen.

DH: Okay and...

WJ: I volunteered for the enlisted reserve corps. The military sent an application to all the schools saying if you're going to volunteer we might get you some education.

If you volunteer for the Army you check this, you volunteer for the Navy you check the other, so I volunteered for the Navy. And my buddy from the next town and I went to Dallas for the same physical and we were the only two in the room with glasses. So what the fellow in the room he said (makes a noise), "Come on you two with the glasses." Said, "If you pass this eye test you can take the rest." Well we both flunked the eye test, so then went back and I took the one for the Army. And was accepted and I was supposed to go into college work on engineering until I was 18. At the time I was 18, at the end of that semester I would go to engineering basic and then come back to engineering school. Well when we, the first semester I turned 18 and they didn't need engineering, I don't guess, they needed (unintelligible). So they put all of us that had just turned 18 into infantry basic training replacement so I went to infantry basic training replacement in Little Rock, Arkansas or near Little Rock.

DH: What year was this Bill, '42?



Oral History

of
William Julian
Interviewed by
Denny Holland and Paul Tritaik

WJ: This was...

DH: '43?

WJ: In '44, early 1944. So I took the 17 weeks basic training and at that time the, I was assigned to a unit with the 10th Mountain Division. The 10th Mountain Division were ski troops that where you had to be approved by the National Ski Association to get in, they spent two years training in Colorado; were a real close nit group. And the, anyway they decided there was a light division, no heavy equipment, they used pack (unintelligible) that a mule could carry and no BAR's, no heavy machine guns, no heavy mortars, and no Army in the field wanted them. So they just made a regular unit out of it, they sent it to Camp Swift, Texas right out of the hills of Colorado. And got there in June or July, and a few unhappy soldiers were there but they went through the training at Camp Swift near Austin. And they added 3 men, they were 9 men squads instead of the traditional 12 so they added three men to each squad and I was one of the three added

to a squad. And the first the job I got, well they said, "Do you know how to work a B.A.R." so we did and that was that; they've never seen a B.A.R.

PT: Could you tell us what a B.A.R is?

WJ: Browning Automatic Rifle. And anyway my first job was with cases of B.A.R.'s and (unintelligible), which is hard, hard to get off. So we cleaned up a bunch of (unintelligible), a bunch of B.A.R.'s. My buddy and I picked the best barrel we found; we went to all these piles of parts we had, we picked the parts that worked just like a clock, and put the others together. And we had ours that we wanted and we went to the range to fire them, well ours (unintelligible) worked just like this; the others sometimes had a little malfunction, had to get working good, but the other mistake they made they put us next to the ammo. And on that firing range you're lined up here and down there are the row of targets and they go up and down and just shoot, and there were targets that went down that weren't even shot at but we had a lot of fun.



Oral History

of
William Julian
Interviewed by
Denny Holland and Paul Tritaik

DH: You were taking them out for them.

WJ: But anyway that's how I joined the 10th. And you want to go on with the military?

DH: Yeah, sure go ahead.

WJ: Okay we went to Italy, I landed in Naples on Christmas Day; we went on to Pisa, and went online in January. And we were, our outfit; we walked across to Po Valley and had a real mole's eye view of Italy. And in the process I got wounded twice, I got two purple hearts and a bronze star with a cluster and a "V" for Valor, and a combat infantry badge. And when the war ended, we were at the mouth of the Brenner Pass right when the war in Italy ended. And the last real part of it was three or four of us were to block a road going into the Brenner Pass, so we set up our B.A.R.'s there and a couple of M1's to block this road. And the next morning we looked around the corner and the Germans had blown the whole road off the map, but that's where we were and came home and then we were discharged.

DH: After you were discharged you went to school, college?

WJ: After I was discharged I decided to farm, so farmed two years with my dad. And on the second year I had borrowed \$2,000, was a GI loan, bought a Ford tractor with all the farm equipment and started doing custom work so I could pay for the tractor; \$2.00 an hour, me and the tractor and fuel and all. And in July a neighbor had wanted some, bunch of (unintelligible) some real rough bottom land. I told him to get a heavy disk, he said "You do it." So I said, "I'd do it with time." And I was working, working, the 3rd of July it was real hot, four or five miles from home, 12 hours a day. And 4th of July came, I went down there and worked and I was the only one working on the 4th of July; all the crew he had clearing, they were celebrating. So I said, "There's got to be something better than this." And so I thought about A&M and wildlife management sort of just passing and thinking a little bit and I decided that's got to be it.



Oral History

of
William Julian
Interviewed by
Denny Holland and Paul Tritaik

PT: What were you growing?

WJ: We were going sweet potatoes and no cotton, my daddy was out of the cotton business; money mark was sweet potatoes at a storage house. Anyway I told daddy, I said "I decided to go to school." And he said, "Fine." I said, "What we going to do with the crop." He said, "Let it rot. If I can't get it out, let it rot you go to school." So I started at A&M in taking Wildlife Management and the one summer I worked for the State Game Commission banding mottled ducks on the Texas coast and the second summer I worked on the Bosque del Apache Refuge, Socorro, New Mexico as a student assistant and then graduated in January of '51. At the time of graduation I had two options of employment, one was to Cabeza Prieta in Arizona at a GS 5, 3100 a year. One was at Sabine, GS 5, 3100 a year, so I accepted the one at Sabine and then got a letter saying, "We can't do that because you can't get on the Civil Service Register because it's closed because of Korea. So you can go to work as a GS 3 at 2600 a year and in six months you're get a raise." So that's

what I did, so I graduated in January and went on to work at Sabine. In the class with me was John Walter and Vick Kay, they finished in June. John Walter went to Delta Refuge as a GS 3 clerk at 2400 a year, Vick Kay went to Cape Romain as a maintenance man; I don't know what he was making, but Vick round up in the regional office in supervision and then into Albuquerque as a refuge supervisor. And John Walter was a Sabine, I mean at Delta, he stayed there as clerk with Claude Lard for, well until I went from Sabine to Delta as manager so then John took my place.

At Sabine, Sabine was about 144,000 acres, I think, lying between Calcasieu Lake and Sabine Lake and it was originally a muskrat ranch; muskrat ranch was owned by Star (unintelligible) a cattle company out of Orange. In the '30's they had, after they got set up the muskrat harvest was about 400,000 rats a year and the price of rats were about six or seven dollars. And the, to harvest this they had to do a bunch of canals; they put one canal, central canal from Calcasieu Lake to Sabine Lake about twenty miles, about straight, and there were



Oral History

of
William Julian
Interviewed by
Denny Holland and Paul Tritaik

two other canals parallel on either side that didn't quite go all the way across and one or two north and south laterals. In the center of the place, they called, a bunch of buildings called a clubhouse and this was the living quarters for the management during the trapping season. It was a big building with a lot of living quarters and a storage, a muskrat drying and storage area. And this drying area was a big room with rolling racks, I mean with overhead racks just one right after the other; I don't know how many hides they could store or dry at one time. The trappers lived or stayed in, they had trapper cabins scattered all over the refuge, and they trapped on a percentage basis.

DH: Shared basis of...?

WJ: On how many pelts they got, and not only on muskrats but they were also taking some mink and possibly some otter. I don't know what the problem was but when I got to Sabine, V.L. Childs was manager. He was a game agent at Arkansas and at White River and they assigned him to Delta, I mean to Sabine because of problems with

the fur harvest and the fur separation. The manager at Sabine was a man named Lundeen, whose brother was a senator in Wisconsin. V.L.'s instructions were to find what's going on with the fur harvest, don't know why Fish and Wildlife was on the background on it. Anyway V.L. was assigned, was assigned to report only to Washington, nothing to the regional office and he said that didn't go over very big, but in the process Lundeen retired or moved out and V.L. become refuge manager. And he had been there, I don't know what year he got there, mid-forties, and he was there when I got there in '51.

DH: After Sabine, your next duty station was...

WJ: Delta.

DH: ...Delta.

WJ: I went to Delta from Sabine.

DH: Okay, tell me about the move in addition to the job; transportation.



Oral History

of
William Julian
Interviewed by
Denny Holland and Paul Tritaik

WJ: Transportation from one refuge to another?

DH: Yeah.

WJ: Well I was at Sabine for three years, two years and at that time when you moved there was, in the manual, there was a formula that says so many pounds, so many miles you'll get reimbursed. And if you did all your own packing and unpacking, everything, then you can almost come out even. To get mileage on your car, you had to list expenses to move you and your family on public transportation, so I figured the taxi fare from Sabine to the railroad station in Sulphur, the railroad station then to New Orleans and on down and then bus on down or taxi, but anyway wound up proving that the government could pay me five or six cents a mile and it'd be cheaper than moving my family. But doing the moving you did all your own moving, all your packing, you learned when you unpacked you put a box in a box in a box in a box and stuff them up in an attic cuz you knew at your next move,

you'd going to do that; we had some boxes that survived I think about ten moves.

DH: Helen, were you part of that at that particular time or did you come along a little later?

HJ: We married when he was at Sabine.

DH: At Sabine, okay so you were part of this thing. Now you got land transportation all the way to Venice?

WJ: Land transportation to Venice, from Venice to get to the refuge, the parking lot was in the California Oil Company dock, California Oil Company had a lease that they had before; California had gotten the lease after Fish and Wildlife acquired the land. So we had, they were real anxious to befriend us in any way they could. So we landed and we took the stuff to Venice and they furnished a barge, a tugboat with radar and a dirty tarp to cover our stuff on the barge. So we unloaded the stuff off the moving van onto the barge, covered it up with the tarp, went out on the river turned on



Oral History

of
William Julian
Interviewed by
Denny Holland and Paul Tritaik

the radar and went 7 miles to go home, which was down river and a couple miles north of Pilot Town.

DH: Was this during the fog season by chance; foggy?

WJ: What?

DH: Was it, did you get much fog?

WJ: Fog, Delta was unbelievable on fog in the winter, this cold water coming down the river hitting that warm air. In February, 20 something days of the month you were fogged in and in one year, the second year or the first year we were there, we were going home to Texas for Christmas. We packed up and was ready to go at daylight or early on the morning we were going to leave and the fog finally lifted enough at 1:00 that we got to start out. But on fog, when I got to Delta John Walter had agreed to stay there a week or so until, sort of zeroed me in but about the second or third night he said, "Bill," said "we need to patrol, need to go down Rafael tonight." So we got in the boat

and we went down Rafael and drifted around awhile and looking for gator hunters and didn't see any and punching nutria once in a while with a paddle, they'd be swimming by the boat and the only thing we had to amuse us was you punch a nutria and he'd grunt. And (unintelligible) it started getting foggy and John said, "We'd better head home." So we got to where the river comes down, my arm is Mississippi River and I'd better turn it this way cuz I got a thumb that goes up (unintelligible). River comes down like this and there's two or three main passes that going all the way that ocean going vessels use and there's two or three that go this way. And there's a wide one comes right, the headquarters are back here and this main pass comes back up at about a 45 angle and it's wide, and it's, I guess it's $\frac{1}{2}$, a $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile across the whole series there. So we pulled in from Rafael pass, there was sort of a bell or some kind of marker there. John said, "Well," says "take the flashlight and get up on top and we'll look to see if there's oil crew boats we use in that, take a cruise off shore as well as ocean going vessel." And John took the



Oral History

of
William Julian
Interviewed by
Denny Holland and Paul Tritaik

only compass that the refuge had and set it on the dash and he said, "I'll go so long, so far then I'll take a 90 degree right and bump the bank. And we'll hit it and that's not where we need to go, we'll back up and go a little further and bump it again." So anyway that's how we went across main pass, if you missed (unintelligible) you go up the main pass to the right and you go back on out onto the gulf. If you went too far to the left, why you're going straight up the river and could go to New Orleans if you wanted to, but anyway that was the navigation in the fog.

DH: That's amazing. How did you enjoy living down there Helen?

HJ: It was an experience.

DH: And electricity of course was...

HJ: What was that?

DH: What was it?

HJ: The kerosene refrigerators were the fun. We would shop in New Orleans, car load of food, unload in Venice onto the boat and

then unload at the dock and in a wheelbarrow to take to your house when you got to the island and put it all in the refrigerator. Well if you would overwork that refrigerator and it would go out, so here you had all this food so we ate a lot of a canned food. It was a have to, and fish, we fished every day that was our fun; fished out in the river.

DH: You could catch about anything depending on how deep you went.

HJ: The Coast Guard was next door, and well everybody would go out on the little dock, little pier and fish and visit late in the afternoon.

DH: How long were you there?

WJ: We were in Delta two years, but the electricity; let's go electricity at Sabine then we go electricity at Delta. Okay electricity at Sabine was a 5KW plant, this was for three houses and the shop and the office. The first one up would go start the plant and the last one to bed, and there was rush to



Oral History

of
William Julian
Interviewed by
Denny Holland and Paul Tritaik

who had to turn out the light last, would go shut the light plant off. Well we finally got a light plant we got a 5KW new one, brand new one that was out of New Orleans, set it up and it wouldn't always work; we had all kinds of trouble with it. And we called the company and we called them and recalled them, and finally when V.L. and I or Charles, the manager and I were out in the yard I told V.L. I said, "Look V.L. can I go write them a letter and tell them what I think." "Yeah," he said, "tell them what I think too!" So just before I got to the office, "Hey Bill when you find another source for parts, go ahead and mail that letter!" But the light plant at Delta was even worse because the house was further from the generator. And finally, the volt meter would get to 65 down at our house where we were at the end of the line and if anybody had a light or two on; they took turns with the washing machines and stuff. But finally we worked out a deal with the Coast Guard, we would furnish a 25 KW generator, Coast Guard would furnish one; the Coast Guard was using part of the old buildings from the old quarantine station, it was during the early

days they were the quarantine station on immigration. So the Coast Guard had some building and then the refuge had some, but anyway we have a joint building. The Fish and Wildlife would build the building and we'd put the two generators in it. So the oil field companies had a lot of generators scattered around and I went to one of their installation, they had the platform with a concrete base. Then up for about a couple of feet was open then they had metal on up and a roof in the center of block for the generator up high. And I sent that in and said, "This is what we need." Well the knowledgeable regional office said, "No that's not what you need." We needed the same base but you come up with boards for four feet, then you have heavy wooden shutters for another two feet and anyway that's what we built. (Unintelligible) we had the, anything you got at Delta it came down the river on the pack it boat, came down two times a week. So the sand and gravel for this base was bought in on 30 pounds paper bags of sand and gravel. There's another story with that, when we got a bunch of 15 pound bags we had a discussion with the



Oral History

of
William Julian
Interviewed by
Denny Holland and Paul Tritaik

people and they sent some more. But anyway that's what we built that darn house that was hot on a reasonable construction but it was just (unintelligible) FWS specks.

DH: From Delta you went to Big Lake?

WJ: Went to Big Lake. Alright at Delta we had our first son was born at Delta. And from then...

DH: Time to get off island, wasn't it Helen?

WJ: Yeah it was time to get off. So the only thing that was open was Big Lake and I'd made a 9 at Delta, Big Lake was a 7. So the region said, I was at the bottom of nine they said you over the top of a 7 and they said it won't be much difference. Well to them three or four hundred dollars wasn't a whole lot of money, but anyway we needed out of Delta. So the WPA back in the older days there at Delta had put an in orange grove, a citrus grove; it was lemons and oranges galore. So on to the move of poundage I knew we were way under our weight on what we'd be reimbursed for, so

we took a bunch of the boxes and a few more and we moved about 25 boxes of oranges and lemons as household furniture to Big Lake. And when we got to Big Lake why we juiced a whole lot of oranges but anyway that was the move...

DH: (Unintelligible), you got.

WJ: Yeah the move to get out of there, Joe Withers was the game agent in New Orleans and he knew a fellow in the moving business. John DeLime was to replace me at Delta so we worked with John DeLime. John, this friend, this mover that Joe Withers knew, loaded up John DeLime's stuff and bought it down on a California Company barge and parked it at the dock and unloaded his stuff into the house and my stuff out of the house and onto the van on the barge and went back up river and then we went on from there to Big Lake.

HJ: You need to tell about the deer, on the airplane float.

WJ: At Delta there was, the high banks next to the passes were some pretty good ground



Oral History

of
William Julian
Interviewed by
Denny Holland and Paul Tritaik

and brush. And Joe Withers and I were patrolling, here was this plane, Cessna, trying to take off and had two deer on each pontoon and two or three men in it and we outran it, we caught it 'cause it couldn't take off. And the fellow, I said, "Well you got your deer down here on the refuge." "Oh no, no, no!" And it went, finally I said, "I'll tell you what," they said "We'll show you where we got the deer." And I said "If I can't point you out a refuge sign we have no problem, but if I can point you out a refuge sign we've got your deer." And so we took off and little bit ways, he said "Here's the pile of guts." So we circle the pile of guts and I said, "Look over there on the bank." Here was a sign and he said a few words. But anyway we came on back, we loaded the deer onto our boat and they were able to get the plane in the air then. Joe Withers took the deer in and Joe's story was that he took them, took the deer to an orphanage and said when he pulled in with the deer, said the kids got all excited. Says half of them were saying, "Oh we got meat, we got meat!" And half of them said, "OH THEY

GOT SANTA CLAUS! THEY GOT RUDOLFF!"

HJ: And the other story on Otis and the judge.

WJ: The Delta, Claude Lard was manager there. He and Otis had found, along the refuge...

DH: Otis being...

WJ: Otis Mouton was the maintenance man there and Otis had found a string of muskrat traps making a loop coming into the refuge; it had came in, made a big loop and came out. Well Claude got on one end of the loop, Otis got on the other one and to make a case you can't just find the traps and the man in there, if you find him he's just trespassing. He's got to touch the trap or manipulate something before you can charge him with trapping. Well anyway, they threw a trap and he reset it and Otis contacted him and the fellow plead not guilty. So we go to New Orleans to court and the, they put Otis on the stand and the defendant has one of



Oral History

of
William Julian
Interviewed by
Denny Holland and Paul Tritaik

these super Perry Mason lawyers. And the lawyer says, "Mr. Mouton, when you contacted Mr. so and so on the refuge, could he read a sign?" Otis said, "No sir." Said, "Mr. Mouton, you mean to you bought him in here to court and he was there and he couldn't even read a sign? Why couldn't he read a sign?" "He was standing behind it." And that sort of broke the court up.

[Break in tape]

DH: You have just moved to Big Lake?

WJ: Yeah.

DH: You had to leave Delta because you had children.

WJ: Yeah.

DH: And Big Lake, you got a reduction in grade.

WJ: Right.

DH: And in pay.

WJ: Right.

DH: And a promotion to get out of Delta.

WJ: Yeah.

DH: Strange how things work isn't it?

WJ: Yeah.

DH: Your tour at, this took place about when; what year was that when you, fifty...

WJ: Seven, fifty-eight.

DH: And who was with you on staff at Big Lake?

WJ: John Ellis.

DH: Oh yeah, okay. It was just the two of you.

WJ: Yeah.

DH: You were the clerk and you did everything.



Oral History

of
William Julian
Interviewed by
Denny Holland and Paul Tritaik

WJ: Didn't have a clerk, I was the clerk. That wasn't the first time I was clerk, I was clerk at Sabine when I went work too. At Sabine when I got there the clerk had moved and anyway I was acting clerk, acting assistant manager and then with the slag plant, V.L. Childs, manager, hurt his back real bad on cranking a light plant. And he had to go to New Orleans to the Health Hospital to get surgery. So the crew took an old Ford Sudan, which was our vehicle, took the right front seat out and made a bed and then V.L. was on that and I took him to New Orleans. And we got going down and oh we were part way there on the two lane highway and the littlest old place that was open was (unintelligible), I said, "V.L. you want some coffee?" "Yeah," he said, "I'd like some coffee." Well I'd just gone by this place so I made, and I looked nobody around, I made a U-turn and went back to this little restaurant, little café; pulled in and here come the old boy. And he (unintelligible) and says, "Well," he said, "I saw you make that U-turn back there." I said, "Well, yeah," I said, "I've got a sick man in here and he said he wanted some coffee." And about that

time "OOOOOHHHHH! OOOOHHHHH!" And you'd thought V.L. was dying, and anyway this little policeman almost bought my coffee. He couldn't get my coffee quick enough or get me on the road again.

DH: At Big Lake, what was your main job?

WJ: Well Big Lake, one there was a little bit of clearing up on the north end and then we wanted to put in, on the bottom end to do some real clearing down there. Well the clearing on the north end, Joe Morton was the manager before me, and we had, I put in a budget for a certain amount of clearing up on the north end, and also on the south end. Well I got a call from Farminic, Carl Farminic was assistant supervisor in Atlanta. And got a call from Carl he says, "Looking over your budget," he says, "There's just clearing up on that north end." He said, "Why is that high?" I said, "Mr. Farminic if you want to know the reason why don't you come measure the acres." "Oh" he says. So he said, "Don't do it." So we didn't do that one but he said go ahead with this (unintelligible) on the south. Well on the



Oral History

of
William Julian
Interviewed by
Denny Holland and Paul Tritaik

south were we're going, there were some big Cypress and I made a deal with a local saw mill that he cut the Cypress and cut the logs to make timber, make some lumber out it, we'd have some for a bridge or two and Tennessee needed some lumber so we traded him the logs for cutting it up and got some timber, which left us a bunch of big stumps. Well John Ellis says, "Well," he says, "the only way we can do those is drill them and blast them." He came up with a drill about yag long with a handle on it and I said, "Joe (unintelligible) better than that." We had a little generator and I said, "I'm going to go get a big drill," and I said, "take this thing to the shop and take this drill and fix it to where it will fit in a (unintelligible) of a drill." So we did that, so we took an electric drill to drill the stumps and I got \$25.00 incentive award out of that. Anyway, you drill the hole and take a pipe, clean the pipe out, put a hash stick or little better dynamite in it, blast, make a hole, bring that out, put two, three, four, five sticks of dynamite down there with a cap on the end, and then use the, had a fuse. We'd do all the stumps or a certain amount of stumps, when you put

the dynamite in well you take a chuck, put a chunk onto of the log on top of the stump (unintelligible) the last thing we'd do would be light all the fuses. And the next morning the first thing we'd do would check, if there was a stump on one, take a half stick of dynamite and a fuse and put it down on top and go ahead and re-blow it. But anyway while John and I were the demolition, John was the demolition expert and handling that, dynamite we were using it bare handed. And wound up, both of us, with headaches and John, we wound up one day I took John to the doctor and he got a shot, the nurses started laughing and John said, "What you shoot me with?" And said, "The same thing we shoot a woman with after having a baby to relax her." And anyway John didn't have a baby but he got rid of his headache. But the other dynamite, at Delta there was a series of interior ponds that we lacked about 50 yards, maybe a little less, we couldn't get into them. So I said, "We need to blast a canal, a channel." So they said, "Well go ahead and contract it." So I got a demolition crew, met up them in Venice. They unloaded cases of dynamite (makes a noise)



Oral History

of
William Julian
Interviewed by
Denny Holland and Paul Tritaik

like that in the boat, sat on them and going down the river, sat on them smoking and we wound up to where we were and went to (unintelligible) but the way they were doing it, take the stick and lay it parallel to the ground, then put one in the ground, join another one on it and just stair step all the way across. And they were going along like this and all of a sudden one of them opened one of the cases of dynamite called rest of them over and said, "Look." And that sucker, the end about that much of it, was as red as it could be and they said, "What are we going to do with this one?" And they didn't know whether to take it out and burn it or, finally one of them says "If you'll all get back and I'll set it out." So he gingerly used that case, so we blasted the ditch out and then I took the boat and we made a few fast runs with the (unintelligible) to get the channel open.

DH: Nitroglycerin had leaked out of the dynamite then, that's dangerous stuff. Did John Ellis by chance relate his same story to you as he told me once upon a time about working with Joe Morton threading nails?

WJ: That he what?

DH: Joe Morton had John straightening out nails and then...

WJ: No but I feel like it was a true story, I didn't hear that but Joe, John said that the gas was cheaper in Missouri then it was in Arkansas. And Morton would fill up the government vehicle and in Missouri at a cheap price and then fill up his own car with equivalent gallons out of the tank.

In permits in Arkansas, fishing permits, right after I got there the people, you could give them a permit for fishing. And ole boy came in and started working at his permit and he looked at me a little bit he said, "You were at Camp Walters, weren't you?" And I said, "Yeah." Low and behold when we were inducted, we had cots next to each other at Camp Walters for about two or three days in the early induction.

DH: Small world. From Big Lake, any more children at that...

WJ: Added one.



Oral History

of
William Julian
Interviewed by
Denny Holland and Paul Tritaik

DH: Added one at Big Lake.

WJ: Added one at Big Lake.

DH: Okay and what about...

Helen: What about your undercover...?

WJ: Oh when I first got to Big Lake within the first week Jack Perkins was the game agent then and Jack came over and said, "I want to ask you something, if you don't want to do it, don't do it." And he said, "I would like for you to do an undercover buy for me." He said, "A man will take you to this fellow, recommend you and all you have to do is buy it." And I said, "Well I can do that." So he gave me the name of who I needed to contact, so I go over to (unintelligible) and contact his man and he said, "Lefty Griffin needs catching." He said, "I've hunted Lefty all my life," and he said, "the last turkey hunt I went with him I told him on this large island, I wanted to hunt it on the Mississippi." And Lefty told him he says, "There's no turkey there." Said, "I've trapped them all." So he said, "Lefty, you need to stop it." He said, "That

broke me over." But he said, "I can't go with you." And I said, "Well I thought you were going to." "No," he said, "I can't go." So (unintelligible), I said "Well let's see how I can get there." So I said, "Is there anybody you know that hunted with Lefty that's not here anymore, not in the area anymore?" He said, "Yeah one of his buddies is working down at Pine Bluff, he doesn't come around anymore." I said, "Well what about him?" So he told me a little bit about him and so I said, "Well I'll see what I do with him." Anyway I went on, I went out to the, Lefty lived in a houseboat with, he had a common law wife there at that houseboat. At his other headquarters down the Mississippi on the river, he had a whole other set up of hunting but anyway I talked to this lady and said, "I ran into Shorty down at Pine Bluff and told him I was in this area and I wanted some duck. He told me to go see Lefty." Said, "Shorty sent you." "Yeah." Said, "Pop, he says Shorty sent him." He said, "Sell him what he wants." And so I bought some ducks and I said, "Look, we're having an office party I'm going to really need a bunch next week.



Oral History

of
William Julian
Interviewed by
Denny Holland and Paul Tritaik

Do you think you have them?" "Oh yeah, we'll have them." So I went back next week and bought twenty something ducks, including a wood duck." And he said, "You need a catfish." "Yeah I could some catfish." So I bought a bunch of illegal catfish and I said, "I sure do need some venison." And she said, "Well you're have to put that on order." So I ordered some venison and said, "We've got some young turkey here would you like young turkeys," said "these are young birds." I said, "Yeah I need one." So anyway I bought all this messy stuff and I made, two or three times I got to thinking what in the world am I going to do if Lefty is there when I go back; I need to get out of this mess. So the next time I went I took Bill Barns, who was game agent in Kentucky, and I recommended Bill highly. And anyway I told her I was fixed to get transferred, that I wouldn't be back and but Bill said, "I'd like to come back." And anyway he wound up hunting with Lefty and Lefty took him down to his other headquarters down in Mississippi and Bill said they got out in the middle of the river, Lefty was in one end of the boat with a

shotgun and I was in the other, he shut the motor down and said, "You know, I think you're a God d*mn fed." Bill talked him out of it but anyway finally in court Lefty got, I think 60 days and Ruby got, I don't know what she got, got a fine suspended I think.

DH: From Big Lake, where?

WJ: From Big Lake, got a call from V.L. Childs, Childs had transferred from Sabine to Tennessee Refuge and he said, "Philip VanDyke is transferring to the regional office, would you consider over here." Well V.L. is one of the few that I'd go back to work with. So I said, "Yeah I'll do that, be a 9; get my 9 back." So I went to Tennessee as V.L.'s assistant replacing Philip VanDyke. And my job was about 4,000 acres of farmland and about 40 something permits and my job would be to work with all those permittees. And talked to Philip, Philip sort of showed me a little bit of the stuff he said, "You won't have any trouble," said "I told all them that my verbal agreements with them are no longer valid."



Oral History

of
William Julian
Interviewed by
Denny Holland and Paul Tritaik

So I didn't have to honor his verbal agreement but dealing with 40 Tennessee farmers. And when I started when I got there I'd go to each house, set there at the dining table with a wife and 3 hungry kids trying to negotiate how many acres and how much this and much rent, and it just wasn't a real good feeling to take the food right out of those kids mouths, so after the first year we set up an office at a local motel and let them come in.

DH: They come to you. That's where I met you.

WJ: Yeah at Tennessee V.L. said, "This fellow Holland," he said "I know his dad but this youngster," well I won't go into all those details.

DH: [Laughing] Good!

WJ: Says he up there and come up for a program, so we went up a program and that's where I met Mr. Holland.

DH: That was what 1956 or '7, somewhere along back there. Needless to say Bill and I have been acquainted for a few years and enjoyed each other's company very much, especially Ms. Helen's.

WJ: But see Denny's dad was a manager for years and I knew him before I knew Denny.

DH: How long was your tour at Tennessee?

WJ: About 2 years.

DH: And from there you went to...?

WJ: South Florida.

DH: South Florida Complex there at Loxahatchee, which included, name all the stations.

WJ: Key Deer and Sanibel and that group.

DH: Everything in South Florida.



Oral History

of
William Julian
Interviewed by
Denny Holland and Paul Tritaik

WJ: Yeah and Pelican Island and on up to Pinellas, up to west coast of Florida.

DH: Who was on your staff at South Florida?

WJ: Well Jake Valentine was the manager there ahead of me and Key Deer had Jack Watson and Sanibel has Tommy Wood. Loxahatchee had Johnny Lamb who, Johnny was an old airboat operator and knew the area and when they first set up the refuge he was sort of a guide and worked for, worked on the refuge when it was first set up and thought he would be the manager but he wasn't. So anyway he was a disgruntled employee and he was a real good buddy of the all airboat crew and some of our main outlaws, he was an old buddy of Edgar Sorenson. So we wound up a time or two, we would go patrolling and wouldn't tell Johnny we were going, in the meantime we were living next door to him. And this went on...

[Break in tape]

...was a good airboat operator and knew the glades like very few did but that's all he

wanted to do was ride around. And we had a farming operation so I asked him to take the tractor and go do some plowing, well he couldn't operate the farm tractor; he didn't know how one operated. So I told him, I said, "Look the tractor is there, the paint brush is here. Which do you want?" And he got on the tractor and ran it in a ditch. And it went on and on, little things like that and finally one day I was in the office, Walt Stieglitz had come in as assistant manager, Clyde Lee was the clerk then. And I was standing there in the office, Johnny came in, hit me on the shoulder and he said, "They say that you're suppose to be real tough." Said, "Let's just out here in the yard and we're find out who's tough." And so I said, "Johnny, that's no way to settle it." And I sat down. And he vented for a while and finally left and I just told, to Walt and Clyde, I said, "Just do some good remembering and some thinking on this." And I went to the house and when I finally got to where I good talk, I called Givens and I said, "Something's got to be done." I said, "If we get in a fight, one of us going to kill the other one." I said, "He's not going to



Oral History

of
William Julian
Interviewed by
Denny Holland and Paul Tritaik

stop until he's dead or unconscious." And I said, "I don't want to fight him." And Givens said, "I'll call you back in a few minutes." He called back in a few minutes, he said "(Unintelligible) I'll be there in the morning." So they came the next morning, they said "Don't even meet us at the airport, we'll come in a rental car." And he called everybody in one at a time and we went through our spiels and they told me at the end, they says "Well what we're doing, we're going to suspend him for 60 days and a mandatory transfer to Tennessee." And I said, "Well transfer him to get rid of him but make it 30 cuz his kids are hungry." So they suspended him for 30 days and went through a mandatory to Tennessee and he acted like he was going for a little bit but we knew he wasn't but the post master at Fort Lauderdale had who had been coaxing him all this time. And he wound up working for the post master at Lauderdale and I heard that three or four years later he wasn't working there anymore, so I don't guess he could ride the airboat down there either, anyway this was one of the bad situations.

DH: Every once in a while you encounter...

WJ: Had some more of them too but we can get them later.

PT: Can we expand upon Ding Darling and then Pelican Island? When you started at South Florida Ding Darling had just become part of the complex, can you talk about that?

WJ: No, the, well...

PT: Or Sanibel.

WJ: Sanibel was into, in a way, Sanibel was in it but Tommy Wood, it was understood that Tommy was to be his own manager and we wouldn't have anything except maybe help him with paperwork when he needed it. And then one day I got a phone call from Larry Givens and Larry said, "You're now manager of Sanibel." I said, "What!" "Yeah," he said, "Walt Gresh went down there and he walked in the office and Tommy wasn't there but he saw the state of paperwork that was going on and he said there would be some changes and he said



Oral History

of
William Julian
Interviewed by
Denny Holland and Paul Tritaik

you're it, so you and Tommy work it out. Well we did, Tommy was a little reluctant to take that change but we worked it out with no real problem. But Tommy was a pilot, had a Cessna and he and that plane were one. He could land on the canal, there could be a canal and a wind blowing the wrong way and you'd be coming in the canal and your sitting at about 30 degrees or better from the direction that the canal run, and just as you get in the canal with the tall rows on the side, he had whipped that plane around and landed in about a 30 foot canal and go right on in. We flew census down to the keys and all the way on out pretty regular. On one of the first trips, we left Loxahatchee, Delray was right to the east a few miles, and Tommy said "We can't go over Delray." I said, "What's the matter Tommy?" He said, "They're mad at me." I said, "Well what happened?" He said, "Well I was with a group and we were barn storming through here and we landed at Delray Beach and we offered rides for a price and had a parachute jump." And said, "For the parachute jump, we passed a hat to make money for the man to jump out with a

parachute. We passed the hat and it was just empty when he got back and the jumper said, "I'm not going to jump for that." So we passed the word that....

[End of tape 1, start of tape 2]

DH: Back to Tommy Wood.

WJ: Okay Tommy on another trip, well Tommy said "Don't you like to fish?" I said, "Sure I like to fish." He said, "Put your rod in next time." So I put the rod in next time and I said, "Tommy where we going to fish?" He said, "We'll fish at the Marquesas." Well the Marquesas is the last key at the end of the Keys and its bunch of keys that actually in the shape of a donut, with the land (unintelligible) in the middle and a few breaks between them. So I thought well we'll just, we're probably just fish some of those cuts coming through those breaks. So we landed out in the middle and Tommy says, "Aren't you going to fish?" And I said, "Well which one are we going to fish in?" "Oh," he said, "we're going to troll." I said, "What?" He said, "Get on the float." So I got on the float and



Oral History

of
William Julian
Interviewed by
Denny Holland and Paul Tritaik

he said, "Now watch it, don't put your rod in the prop if you (unintelligible) a fish." So we trolled awhile and I was hoping I wouldn't get a strike. [Break in tape] And I got a thinking of that poor safety manager back there worrying about me and Tommy writing this report. But anyway I decided we were not going to catch anything we might as well quit fishing so we quit, we quit fishing.

PT: Can you the story about going down to the Keys and catching rock lobster.

WJ: You want that one.

PT: Sure.

DH: Yeah, please.

WJ: Well anyway on one of the first trips, Tommy said, we went to Key Deer headquarters and Tommy says, "You ever eat any rock lobster?" We were looking at the boat basin and there were a lot of little crevices in it where they dug out of that, I forgot what they called that rock but it's not

smooth, there's a lot of little crevices in it and with rock lobsters sticking out.

PT: Coquina.

WJ: Coquina. It was coquina and it was rough surface with a lot of little crevices in it and a lot of rock lobster so Tommy said, "Well we'll see about eating rock lobster." So he found a fish hook somewhere and made a little gig and we caught a big bucket full of rock lobsters. And we were staying over at Little Torch Tavern Motel, which little Torch was run a fellow by who had been one of Claire Chennault Flying Tigers during World War II. And he and Tommy had a lot in common so Tommy spent all kinds of time, would always spend time talking to him. Well anyway Tommy got some sea water and we boiled a bunch of lobsters and he fed me rock lobsters for a long time. Well years, a few years later I said something to Jack about lobsters, getting lobsters there. He said, "What?" I said, "We speared some lobsters there in the basin." And he just had a conniption fit almost, it wasn't legal to spear rock lobster



Oral History

of
William Julian
Interviewed by
Denny Holland and Paul Tritaik

and Jack said, "I knew they disappeared and now I know where they went." Anyway Jack didn't write us up for that.

DH: That would be Jack Watson?

WJ: Jack was at the keys, he was there from the early beginning on the key deer when, I don't know the history of when Key Deer really started, anyway he was one of the first people hired for it. And he was, when the Cuban crises came up, the CIA and the immigration as well as the military really used Jack a whole lot on the information (unintelligible). And he, Jack (unintelligible) we were looking for something and he opened the trunk of his car and there were three different, I think three different radios. He said, "That one is Immigration, that one's CIA, and that one is something else." But he had, and an arsenal of really proficient weapons, but anyway he was working with all of these different agencies and he said, "The other day," he said, "we nearly had a fight. One of the Immigration and one of the other agencies, one of them had set up to raid a hangout over somewhere

on one of the Keys." And they were both government agencies; Jack stopped that, but anyway he was real dedicated individual.

DH: I met Jack Watson's stepson; he was Dr. Ray Birdsong teaching up at Old Dominion University. And he talked about when he was 12 years old going with Jack, when he was a state conservation officer in the Keys. And he said he knew that whole territory backwards and forwards, he knew whose boat was doing what, what outlaws it was. And he said, "We ran across old so and so's boat one day," and he wasn't around. He said, "Jack took out his 38, he put three holes in the boat and then three holes in the motor. And it got my attention." I said, "Why'd you do that?" "Well I'm just trying to get even with this particular person and he knows what he's done and he knows who shot his boat, so everything will be cool from here on." He was a character. We got, if I remember correctly, Key Deer was the product of Walter Gresh, the regional director who recognized the key deer as being an endangered species long before we ever had an Endangered Species Act. And



Oral History

of
William Julian
Interviewed by
Denny Holland and Paul Tritaik

he felt it was important to save that habitat, to keep it from development, for the deer itself.

WJ: On Key Deer, they had a dedication for a plaque or for setting it all up, anyway a plaque saying this is Key Deer blah, blah, blah. And Gresh, Walt Gresh, the director, (unintelligible), Larry Givens refuge supervisor and some brass from Washington; I forgot who, came by the Loxahatchee on the way down to unveil this plaque. And anyway they were getting ready to leave and Larry said, "Bill aren't you going with us?" And I said, "No." I said, "We're spraying water (unintelligible) with the helicopter." And I said, "I need to be here, I need to be here when they're spraying." He said, "Oh come on and go," said, "if they haven't learned to spray by now, they never will." So I went with them and we got down there and here was plaque and they unpacked it, was fixing to cover it up with the thing for the unveiling, and I looked at it and I said, "The name on that's wrong." And Gresh just about jumped straight up, he said, "What do you mean

wrong?" And I said, "That says, "Key Deer National Wildlife Refuge." I said, "That's wrong." I said, "This place is National Key Deer Refuge." Bill Town said, "Walt he's right." But Gresh said, "Well we just won't tell anybody." So I guess Key Deer is still dedicated as Key Deer.

DH: I think that's the way she's shown.

WJ: Do what?

DH: I think that's the way it's recorded.

PT: Can you tell us about Pelican Island and...?

WJ: Okay. At Loxahatchee I got a call from Art Marshall, who was at rivers basins at Vero Beach. And Marshall had a real interest in Pelican Island, he was our close, he was our; I wasn't doing anything really with Pelican Island, wasn't anything to do. But anyway, Art loved it and was watching out for it. And in the process of just being in the area and interested, he found there was a lady that was breaking up housekeeping,



Oral History

of
William Julian
Interviewed by
Denny Holland and Paul Tritaik

who had been a housekeeper for an E.A. Nelson, who was curator at Havard Museum. E.A. Nelson spent a lot of time with Paul Kroegel, warren there at Pelican Island. And anyway at that time Nelson was a photographer, an artist, and a real nature lover. So he had made a series of pictures and put them on a glass plate about 9 by 9, and they were projected with a lantern slide projector about 5 feet long. And Art had this machine and whole bunch of pictures, and says "You need to come up and look at what I got on these pictures." So I went up and he went through the series of slides showing Pelican Island and Kroegel, and fishing, and several things, but all of a sudden he showed a slide says "Pelican Island." And here it was just devastated, beat down from nesting birds and a little bit later he showed a slide and another sign over there. Said, "New Pelican Island." And I said, to myself, I said "Hey Art, whoa, let's do this again." And I said, "That's says Old Pelican and New Pelican Island." I said, "I thought it was one island." He said, "Well I thought so too." Anyway I went home and dug out the executive order setting it up and

didn't only have Pelican Island, we had another two or three islands, we had an orange grove, piece of an orange grove and a bunch of other stuff. So I said, "Well the refuge manager is supposed to protect the refuge." So I went home and we prepared to go post it. And I just sent my region note and said, "We've got these slides and it shows new Pelican, it shows more than what." I said, "I'm not going to post the orange grove, I'm just going to post the second large island." And low and behold I got a memo restricted from Bill Town said, "Do not post any, do not post that second island. Do not tell anybody what you've found!" He says, "There's some maneuvering going on, on finding a development, high rise development and land acquisition." He said, "It's a delicate situation, just keep tight but don't tell anybody anything." Well the whole crew knew where we were going so I didn't tell them that I just told them we postponed that other posting, we'll just post the one island. So we had a bunch of aluminum angle iron about 2 ½ by 2 ½, a heavy gauge. We took it and made a pipe, made a (unintelligible)



Oral History

of
William Julian
Interviewed by
Denny Holland and Paul Tritaik

piece of $\frac{3}{4}$ pipe to make a (unintelligible), and took the water pipe and the boat. On the boat, stand that piece of aluminum up, put that big long piece of pipe right in that angle just to sink it right on down in that sand. And we put up sign posted it, probably lasted a long time.

PT: You had talked about that controversy with the state trying to sell those lands around Pelican Island and working with the locals to stop that.

WJ: I wasn't in on the selling those lands and for the high rise development, but it was big high rise development so they were wanting right in there.

DH: Any further you like Pelican?

PT: Any other stories, I know Tommy must of, Tommy Wood, must of done surveys 'cause I've seen pictures of his float plane out at Pelican Island so I guess that was part of...

WJ: Yeah he did a whole lot of surveys but he didn't keep any records. He knew what was going on and flying with him, he would fly low and if he saw, he collected red starfish and if we saw; going low and all a sudden he make a u turn, he say "Got to go get that one."

DH: How long were you down at South Florida Complex Bill? Before you do that, you were involved with a particular, notorious poacher, were you not?

WJ: Yeah.

DH: Alligator poacher.

WJ: Yeah, Edgar Sorensen. When I got there, there was an island out in the middle of the refuge that was called Edgars's Camp; it was just a little bit higher than the rest of it. But anyway Edgar was an old time super-duper hunter, professional. And his hide buyer would take him somewhere, someplace on the upper end of the glades, put him out and he would hunt his way down until he got a load of hides and then



Oral History

of
William Julian
Interviewed by
Denny Holland and Paul Tritaik

he'd come out and phone the buyer and pick him up, well in the meantime he lived in his boat part of the time. So Curtis Wilson was assistant there at one time and Curtis was flying with Tommy Wood, and they found Edgar; let me tell you about Curtis. Curtis and I wound up real good buddies, and Curtis he wound up, he never called me by my name after a certain point. And I told Curtis after one of these bull sessions, I told a story of a school teacher asking the students their name. And the first one, "What's your name son?" Said, "My name's Sam." She said, "No it's got to be Samuel." And the next one said, "What's your name?" He said, "Joe." Said, "No it's got to be Joseph." So the next one, "What's your name?" He said, "Well I thought it was Bill," but he said, "I'm (unintelligible)." And from that story on I was (unintelligible) to Curtis. But anyway Curtis and Tommy saw Edgar camped in the closed area and they landed. And there was some gators bodies on off to the side but Edgar said they were there when he got there, he didn't know anything about them. So all we did good was charge him with trespassing.

Alright let's then fast forward about a year, Ira Westbrook was out in the glades, was patrolling with the airboat and found an Irish potato floating. And he started looking and low and behold into a glump of trees here was a flat boat about 12, 14 foot john boat, and around it were wash tubs, garbage cans, all kinds of camping equipment and groceries, no Edgar. So Ira called in and I said, "Well I guess we'll just have to stake it out." Well two things, Edgar was either there when he saw it and he bailed out and Ira missed him or he was at another camp, reports was he would have two camps and back and forth. So, this was on a Monday, but anyway we staked this camp out day and night until about Thursday and finally gave up and hauled that stuff on home. Well when we unpacked or packing it all here it was this billfold had a sales slip in it from selling hides at Sabine, I knew how a gator hide sales slip looked, and here was this sales slip for gator hide and also his dentures; full set of teeth. And so we packed it up and unpacking it there at the headquarters I said, "Reckon if there's any way of tracing these teeth?" And Curtis



Oral History

of
William Julian
Interviewed by
Denny Holland and Paul Tritaik

says, "I'll have a dental appointment, I'll take care of that." So he took it in and the dentist give him the code on the teeth, so he went to the lab that made the teeth and here they were Edgars teeth. So I got a warrant for Edgar but didn't get Edgar, and we didn't hear of him for a while. It was about, nearly 6 months or a year later I got a report that Edgar had gone hunting on the refuge. I went to Miami Coast Guard and told them what we had. I said, "Is there any way I can get a helicopter at night?" So they talked it over awhile and said, "Yeah." So they sent me a helicopter up one night and we flew the place, couldn't find him and the deal was that if we found him I would go down in a basket and either come up with Edgar or stay in the boat with Edgar and paddle out with him, and anyway he didn't hunt that night. So they said, "Well we'll do it tomorrow night." I said, "That's fine." So tomorrow night, tomorrow they called and said the CO says we can't do this, said we might get that helicopter shot. So they didn't want their helicopter shot so they didn't send it. Well talking to Ira Westbrook, who was maintenance near there

I mean Even Rude, I mean. And Even and I decided to go out that night anyway with a flatboat. And Loxahatchee is about 150,000 acres, more or less, shaped like a diamond and the headquarters is like third base. And that night, over at first base, we saw a light way up the canal; it go into the marsh a little bit and come back into the canal. And we figured it was coming towards us, so we picked a spot with a break coming out of the marsh and tied our boat waiting on him to come, and he worked his way down, worked his way down and low and behold we had picked the exact spot. But I told Even, I said "Now when he comes out, we're going to ask him to stop," but I said, "he's not going to stop." I said, "I'm going to sink him. You get your life vest on, get it on tight 'cause you may have to go pull him out, but I'm going to sink him if he runs." So he pulled out into the canal and we popped the light on him and like in a cartoon where something happens and something jumps on top of the water, well he was sitting in the front of that boat and he pulled the paddle in the water and I think that boat just sorted of lifted up and he was paddling like this for



Oral History

of
William Julian
Interviewed by
Denny Holland and Paul Tritaik

the bank and I headed for him and I landed right on top of his boat, sunk his boat right against the bank and just reached over and pulled him in the boat. And he's so shook up, but anyway we talked a little bit and sat there a little bit and I let him sort recover, and he was wet and I gave him a coat. And I told him, I said "Edgar," I said "you're not going to run, I'm not going to put handcuffs on you." He said, "I won't run." So I said, "Okay I won't cuff you." And I said, "Where's your camp?" "Don't have no camp." I said, "Edgar you've got a camp, just like you had last time." He said, "I don't know anything about one last time." I said, "Edgar we've got your teeth, I got a warrant for you in the office; I'll show it to you when we get there." He said, "I don't have no camp." And so anyway we took him on in and I showed him the warrant and it was 3 o'clock in the morning by now and I took him on to West Palm and put him in jail and finally we talked awhile and he said, "All right," he said "I've got a camp out there." And he said, "What's going to happen to me?" I said, "Well," I said, "I hope you get six months, that's what I'm

going to ask for," and I said, "that's the most I can give you." And I said, "I think you're going to get six months out of it." He said, "What's going to happen to my stuff?" He said, "If I take it home, somebody will steal it." Said, "Will you keep it?" I said, "Sure we're keep it and you can have everything back that's legal." So he said, "All right I'll show you where my camp is." So picked him up the next morning and we went out to his camp, got all of his stuff he had things; same stuff, same thing. And starting back now, see we were over at third base and we got back to about second base coming back. He said, "I've got another camp too." And said he's got fifty some hides in it that's going to spoil. He said, "What's going to happen," he said, "if I you showed you that what's would happen?" I said, "Well we'd turn the hides over to the state, they'd sell them." And I said, "I'd tell the judge you showed me where the camp was." He said, "I'll show you." So anyway we got about half way up the headquarters, he said "Pull into the bank here." We pulled into the bank and then the levy was just off the refuge, half the levy was off the refuge, just on the



Oral History

of
William Julian
Interviewed by
Denny Holland and Paul Tritaik

back side of it, here was this camp he had three or four cans; a gator hide, you skin it, salt it real heavy, roll it up real tight, pack them in a can in a five gallon can, and then put some rocks or junk or something on top, turn it over so it'll drain. And he had three or four cans of gator hides there, so we got those. Anyway I called, I had already talked to the commissioner; we tried cases with the U.S. Commissioner and I talked to him earlier that if "We ever do get Edgar, do you think, would you feel comfortable giving him six months?" Said, "Yeah I can do that." If you hadn't I'd be taking him to federal court. But anyway he said, "Yeah I can do that." So I called him that Monday morning and told him we'd bringing him in, they said, "Fine, it's alright, come on." So I'd left Edgar back at the jail in the meantime, so I went back to the jail and got Edgar and we went to the commissioner's office and when we went in there was a fellow sitting there I didn't know. And so I made my case and Edgar just said it was his and that was about it. And he said, "You've got 6 months federal jail." And said, "Mr. So and So would you take over?" So the

U.S. Marshal got up and took Edgar and in the meantime George Laycock, outdoor writer, he wrote a lot of articles and books and what have you. So Laycock, George Laycock was down shortly after that and I told him about Edgar and showed him the stuff that we had and he says, "I'd like to talk to him." So he went up to Tallahassee to the jail, they wouldn't let him talk to him but Laycock came back down to Florida and talked to Edgar and got his story and wrote a big article for *Outdoor Life* and in the meantime Laycock was writing a book, a book called *King Gator*. And the book was a giant alligator was out happy in the Glades and this mean ole outlaw was after him. And the mean outlaw finally catches King Gator and puts him in a roadside park and a hurricane comes along finally and blows the park out the gator gets away. But the whole story of the *King Gator* is the outlaw is after him and this handsome, young federal agent is also after the outlaw and I sort of felt, I don't know it seemed, something seemed to ring a bell. Anyway Laycock wrote the book and sent me the draft and says, "Review this and if there's anything that



Oral History

of
William Julian
Interviewed by
Denny Holland and Paul Tritaik

can't happen in there, let me know." Well I agreed with the handsome young warden, but he had, I forgot how he got the gator out of there but I told him, I said "You can't haul a 12 foot alligator out of the marsh without doing something with him." I said, "You better take a pole with you and lash him to the pole and have about 2 people to load him." So anyway that's how he hauled the old, big gator out of the Glades back to the road side zoo. In the meantime, after Edgar got out about 6 months later, the state caught him down on the other area. He had the stuff he had in that camp, I got pictures of it and it had everything from flour, to soda, to salt, complete kitchen, he had pots and pans hanging up; he had enough groceries for a camp for two or three weeks.

HJ: (Unintelligible) about his funeral.

WJ: Do what?

HJ: Your funeral.

WJ: Oh at Sabine there was a writer, Cleveland Van Dresser, who had done a

series of articles on federal land being homesteaded with a cabin, a framed cabin, and a framed window, and a framed door for residents. But Van Dresser came down, working on some kind of an article, I took him out and anyway....

HJ: At Sabine.

WJ: ...then we moved, flashed forward to south Florida and I thought I recognized him one day in West Palm; just saw him and walked on, and I didn't go back and try to check. About a month later I got a call from a funeral home, says "We're bringing you some ashes out to distribute." I said, "What?" They said, "We've got the fellow Cleveland Van Dresser ashes that are to be spread on the refuge." And I said, "Well, let me call you back in a few minutes." So I called the regional office and I said, "I don't see any harm in spreading them." They said well they only thing they could see was that somebody would want to put a marker up or something like that. And I said, "Well I can put the ashes where nobody where ever put a marker." And they said, "Well go ahead."



Oral History

of
William Julian
Interviewed by
Denny Holland and Paul Tritaik

So anyway I called them and couple days later, here was a couple of airboats and we went out close to Edgar's camp, scattered the ashes and said a prayer and came on back.

DH: It seems as if there was little problem with 2 4-D and...

WJ: Let's save that till the very end.

DH: Okay, that's fine.

WJ: Well we can come on with it now.

DH: (Unintelligible).

[Break in tape]

WJ: Let's go back to Sabine a little bit.

DH: Go ahead, please.

WJ: And the first weekend I was at Sabine, Mr. Childs the manager, says "Eli (Name) is going out to one of the trapping camps," Eli was a trapper during the winter, and says,

"Eli's going out to one of the trapping camps, you want to go with him? Do a little patrolling or what?" And I said, "Sure." He said, "All right here's your 38." And he gave me a 38 with a barrel about like that, and he said "Here is a violation book." And said, "Eli will give you some instruction on how to catch a poacher." So I went out and we stayed overnight and we were at one of the camps and Eli said, "Well you're going down a canal," he said "don't expect a trail to be straight up the bank." He says, "Look close to the bank," said "look close to the bank, it'll be close to the bank. It won't be where you see it just looking up, you got to watch close." And says, "If you stop a boat, you think something's going on but don't see anything, take an oar and run under it." Said "There may be a string tied to a gun (unintelligible) down through there." And said, "If that don't do any good, look around see if there's a float, a cork or a piece of wood or something, go look at that it might be a sack of hides or something sunk out there with that float." Anyway that was my instruction from Eli and he knew what he was talking about. Anyway years later when



Oral History

of
William Julian
Interviewed by
Denny Holland and Paul Tritaik

John Walter was manager at Sabine, he called Eli and said, "Eli what are you sitting on?" He said, "It's just something, a bunch of trash." He said, "Get up Eli let me look." And said he was sitting on a (unintelligible) sack full of ducks.

Anyway Rudolph was a biologist there at Sabine, Rudy Rudolph, and we got some dry weather to where we thought we could burn some marsh. So Rudy and I set out to burn some holes out in that marsh, burn some openings. And we took a tripod and a bucket and punched a hole in the bucket and put a nail in it where it would drip, put diesel in it then we tried to set the fire (unintelligible) the marsh on fire but we never really did get it to burn but the requirement was that was this weekly report that went in with a listing of everything, a summary of the whole refuge activity. And the clerk would take, we would give him the diaries and he would summarize the weeks work in about in an inch and a half line, room. And on the burning, well he says "Julian attempt to set the fire marsh with Rudolph. Rudolph wasn't hot enough to burn so we didn't."

About every so many years there was a safety inspector that come out of Washington named Gustofson, and Gustofson would put on a white coat and make the safety inspection. Well Gustofson was due to come to Sabine. And I went down to the boathouse the day before he got there and here was Johnny Mouton, a marine mechanic, down in a boat has the oil filler cap off, a little can of gasoline and a swab and he was swabbing that pipe out that you put the oil in. And I said, "Johnny what are you doing?" He said, "The last time Gustofson come in, he took his finger and run around and said that is sludge." He said, "This time when he put his finger down there, he won't find no sludge."

So the, we were catching a whole, V.L. was a real strong enforcement and we did a lot of enforcement off the refuge too. And in one case the state, one of the state game wardens had a hunting camp down at Holly Beach, between there and Johnson Bayou. And he came by one day and says, "Mr. Childs, I wish you'd come down this weekend," he said "they're shooting (unintelligible) out behind my place." So



Oral History

of
William Julian
Interviewed by
Denny Holland and Paul Tritaik

anyway we went down behind the state warden's cabin and we didn't make any cases on that one but we kept running into a bunch of kids that were hunting late. And V.L. said, "Look call the state and get with them and see if ya'll can go to schools and make a round on enforcement." So we got a film *Behind the Flyways*, and one state man and I made the rounds to a bunch of schools. Went to Vinton, Louisiana which is between Sulphur and Lake Charles, Texas; Vinton's in rice field country. And we went through our spiel and then we took questions, and this little ole boy pops up and he says "Mister I want to know, the law say you can kill four duck and you can kill ten squirrel. We ain't got no squirrel, we got a million duck." He said, "Why?"

Anyway one of V.L.'s, Mr. Child's stories, there was a widow named (Name) that lived out next to the refuge and then a couple, Madame and Jim, Jim and Madame (Name). And V.L. said that Madame Jim came by the office one day and they were talking and she said, "Madame (Name)" said "she problemed, she's got trouble." Said, "What?" Said, "Go by there and that

woman ain't no clothes on." Said, "She's out in the yard, she's hanging clothes," said, "she's naked." And I said, "Madame (Name) you go put on some clothes." Said, "I don't need no clothes," said "I'm out here, ain't nobody here." I said, "Madame (Name) you need some clothes, you ain't got nothing up there but you've got something down there." I don't know whether Madame (Name) put on any clothes or not.

Then another one, this fellow came by, we were talking, he sold oysters or he did. He said that there was a state law that says that there was a certain place you could take polluted oysters, transfer them, leave them so long, then sell them. Well this big oyster outfit dug up barge loads of oysters and they put a few of them actually out but they retailed a whole bunch of them, and this fellow knew it but he was selling the oysters. And he said that he was set up there and he said these men come by and said, "Where's your permit?" I told them, "I don't need no permit for bootleg oyster." And so he said, "I moved from Lake Georgia, I go to Holly Beach." He said, "I worked there, I stayed there awhile and look



Oral History

of
William Julian
Interviewed by
Denny Holland and Paul Tritaik

up and here he come again. And I say to him, man if I get into the bottom of a crawfish hole, you'd find me."

One of the trappers was (Name), A. Bill (Name) and he was one of the better trappers, this time we weren't catching a lot of muskrat but he was trapping the mink. At one time I saw his boat coming in late and there were 18 mink in the boat. And in the first sale in dividing, they'd come in and they put their fur all out and then Ralph Adams, "Pop" Adams, was the fur inspector for the refuge; took care of the trapping cabins but he and I did all the fur dividing. (Name) had a nutria skin and this was when nutria were in favor, and V.L. had told him said, "If you catch one, if you can try to release it." So here was (Name) with a nutria hide and I said, "Hey Bill, I don't guess you can get him out easy?" He said "The boss, he don't know I work on one leg."

DH: You mentioned the government share and it brings to mind the stations that you've been on, Sabine with fur trapping are rather extensive. Delta with all revenues?

WJ: Yeah.

DH: Piedmont, which is later; timber sale?

WJ: Yeah.

DH: Blackwater, fur trapping?

WJ: We had a little bit of trapping, nutria, but the nutria hides went down to nothing.

DH: But nearly all stations have some source of revenue that comes back into the government that you have to manage as part of the operation of it.

WJ: We had a, at Sabine, a writer from the *Saturday Evening Post* came down on the gator article and so two of the gator hunters, Eli and his, no Warren (Name) and his brother and I went out and caught a six foot gator. But the gator, you're find an opening in the marsh might be half as big as this room, might be as big as this room, but somewhere in it there'd be a hole that he's in so you have about a 14 foot pole with a hook on it, push that in and when you get it



Oral History

of
William Julian
Interviewed by
Denny Holland and Paul Tritaik

on him and you box it or you hang him, you pull him out. Well we caught about a six foot gator, bought it in for this *Saturday Evening Post* man so we could have a gator hunt. And took a 2 x 8 and cut notches in the side and put the gators feet under it and tied them together, put a real stiff wire on the 2 x 8 and I stood, that night I stood on the bank and V.L. slipped up on the gator with a club.

But the gator harvest was, we'd give a permit for 500 markets but he hide market would probably break towards the end; they wouldn't get but two or three hundred. But the, the hunter would come in that night with a big load of gators and so the next morning I'd take a pan and go to the camp and here be, after they'd have them skinned out, here be a pile of gator carcasses. And you can, on the gators you turn him over on his back, turn the gator on his back and at the hind leg make an incision, there's a muscle that's on a 6 foot gator be about an inch and a half round and about eight inches long; it's like tenderloin and more like a scallop really and we'll pull those out. I'd take a pan and I'd get, took a couple of

pounds or so of them, of gator meat. And it was a real delicacy as Helen can tell you when, sometimes when the VIP's would come, Helen and Nita Childs, the manager's wife, would take turns feeding them. And if it was gator season she always fixed chicken and gator and the people would start out and they would take the gator meat like this and then like this, and I'd eat the darn chicken.

DH: Yeah you ended up with the chicken. You mentioned something that kind of reminds me of something else, when you had a visit from someone from the regional office or Washington Office. Where did they eat?

WJ: They ate at Madame Helen's.

DH: Madame Helen's, that's right.

HJ: Or Madame Nita.

DH: That's right.

HJ: We took turns.



Oral History

of
William Julian
Interviewed by
Denny Holland and Paul Tritaik

DH: Never failed did it?

HJ: (Unintelligible) in Delta too.

WJ: The garr fish in the canals in the summer would lag up close to the top of the surface to get air and with your boats, we'd had the (unintelligible) on the boat had open prop and so you'd cut through alligator weed. And if you hit a garr it'd hit knock that fluke on these end board boats, on the wheel it's knock one out of line, it'd vibrate and you'd have to change the wheel or (unintelligible) slow. So all the boats had a spare wheel and extra nook and a (unintelligible), and if you hit a gator, hit a garr and hurt the wheel you had two choices, either change the wheel or limp home. And to change that wheel, you'd just seen a big gator go in the water back there and then you hit garr. Well you go over the side and you can keep your noise out like this, and you can reach in just like this and just barely get that nut off and get that wheel off and get the other wheel on and in the meantime all the grass shrimp are pulling every hair on your leg, but you get that wheel changed as

quick as you can. But those garr laying there, Claude Denton came down and started down there as clerk. And V.L. and I were going somewhere on a weekend or something on a boat and Claude said he liked to go with us. V.L. said, "Well let's let him learn how to operate the boat." So Claude was operating the boat, a little while, BAM, he hit a garr. A little bit later, it didn't hurt anything, but then hit another one. And I said, "V.L. he hit another one." And he hit another one and V.L. said, "He don't know how to drive." And every time he'd hit one, either V.L. or I would say "Why can't he see them?" And we had Claude just about ready to climb up on top to look but we finally told him.

DH: Interesting times.

WJ: V.L. was on the school board in Cambrian Parish and after a school boarding he said that the, one of the trustees was really concerned said that his daughter had taken chemistry for a whole year and in that whole year she only had two experiences.



Oral History

of
William Julian
Interviewed by
Denny Holland and Paul Tritaik

DH: Yeah languages, okay. I would like to get your thoughts on who guided your career more than anything else and based on what you've said so far, I get the impression that V.L. Childs was probably your...

WJ: Yeah, he set the example.

DH: Okay.

WJ: V.L., if you did it you got credit, if you goofed he covered for you. And if he was there, well if you goofed, he would take part of the blame if he had to; of course I never did goofed.

DH: No, you never did. I don't know all of your career but I'm aware of big bunch of it. And for the record, for the first time that I've had a chance to tell you this I'm sure, I sincerely appreciate what you've accomplished at Felsenthal. That was...

WJ: Well thank you.

DH: ...that was a tough one and I'm to be praised for bringing you into it.

WJ: I've got something on Felsenthal; do you want it now or later?

DH: We'll catch it this afternoon if you want to.

WJ: Johnny Lynch, he was a biologist and had a plane in south Louisiana and he would fly census and trouble shoot geese flocking on the wrong place. One of the people over at Cambrian complained about geese messing up their marsh, and so he was going to stop at Sabine on his way and made a loop on his way to Cambrian. And I went with him and we talked to this fellow, this fellow said the geese was just tearing his marsh up. And Johnny said, "Well we can't keep them all off all the time," but he says "I'll run off today real good." And he said, "What we need to do is, so this doesn't happen, we need to set it up on a schedule." He said, "Next year about the first part of November, when they first start coming in, I'll just come by and we'll set it up and just run them off pretty regular." "OH NO, NO,



Oral History

of
William Julian
Interviewed by
Denny Holland and Paul Tritaik

NO you don't need to come by, you just take them this time and that's all!"

[Break in tape]

WJ: One of the first problems I ran into as a manager when I went to Delta, the assistant manager named Chuck (Name), he had been at St. Marks, he had been at Mattamuskeet and he was problems so they moved him; he was from Louisiana so somebody said we'll send him to Louisiana, maybe it will solve the problem. (Unintelligible) send him to Louisiana where he lives next door to him and anyway Chuck just told me he said don't send to New Orleans, he didn't like to drive in traffic. Otis Mouton the maintenance says, "Don't send me out with him I'll have to do all work and I don't want to hear him talk." And it was he and his wife, he had a master degree from LSU and wife had a master's from somewhere and they had a problem with my intellect and my knowledge. And Chuck and I were sitting out on the dock out there fishing one time, he says, "Bill can I just ask you a question or just say something and you say the first

thing that pops into your mind." I said, "Well go ahead." He says, "To him who has the love of nature" Thanatopsis, "...to him the love of nature," I forgot it right now but then I could quote it, so I finished out Thanatopsis for him. And he said, "I knew it, I knew, Elsie said you wouldn't know it but I knew you would know it!" And anyway Howard Miller finally came down one time and says, "I want to talk to him." So he talked to him and when he went back he wrote him a letter and said he was the last on the list of refuge managers for promotions, had about 13 or 14 ahead of him and he thought he ought to do something else.

But when we first got to Delta, we moved into this old two-story house that WPA had built back when, or the Delta Duck Club had had it, one, I don't know which. But anyway it was termite riddled, they were just everywhere and in the kitchen on all the dishes and you put a newspaper down it get covered up. And Claude had terminated the (unintelligible) beam and I looked and they eaten the corks out from it. But the terminates were just where you get



Oral History

of
William Julian
Interviewed by
Denny Holland and Paul Tritaik

on the back part of the back porch, hit the wall like that and fist go through it. And the regional office didn't seem too concerned on it and we had regional conference and at breakfast Helen and I were sitting there and J. Clark Salyer came down and says, "Can I eat with you?" And he says, "How are things going?" And I said, "Well we're doing fine except for the terminates." And he asked, "What's wrong?" And I told him, and anyway I didn't hear anymore until before we left Howard says, "I'm sending an engineer down to check." So the engineer came down, he says "I'm going to have to tear a hole in the wall." I said, "That's no problem, come on around." So we went around and he saw inside the porch, I just stuck my fist through the wall, he took a crowbar and put it inside and knocked a stud out on each side. He said, "This house is not fit to live in." So anyway we moved out of it but in the process of this, just about the same time or before Ross (Name), who was under-secretary I think at that time or something, he was with one of the steel companies, big steel companies and pretty high up and he saw the termite problem, I

showed it to him and he didn't get much else out of the refuge trip 'cause he was trying to figure out how make a steel proof termite house.

Anyway the Texas Company, I mean we had two oil fields, one was the Texas Company which had prior rights and California Company which had leases in the government and we located to Wales, and they did everything we wanted. Texas Company could do pretty well what they wanted and we had three couples scheduled for a visit. They came down and somebody, we didn't have, sort of limited sleeping quarters but they worked it out, they said they didn't have a real problem said, "We all just take our glasses off at the same time." Anyway on the tour, one of them said something about, brought up how you do with the oil companies. I told them we do fine with California Company but Texas Company is a problem; they can do what they want and they do it and then tell us or we'll find it. Anyway I noticed this little girl, this lady asked two or three questions and it didn't dawn on me at the time. Wasn't long after they left, got a letter



Oral History

of
William Julian
Interviewed by
Denny Holland and Paul Tritaik

saying would I meet with Texas Company in New Orleans, and a biologist, I can't think of his name, (Name); (Name) was an old time biologist. We went there and found out that one of these wives had a sister or brother, one who was on the board of directors at a pretty high level of Texas Company, and after that we got a whole lot better cooperation out of Texas Company. But the Texas Company foreman and I decided that we would, the state leased; when the Delta was set up there was a boundary as far as the land went. It build up way on out, where it build up way on out was state property and state hunting area and part of it was leased. And the leases were cheap so the Texas Company's superintendent and I decided we'd just lease us a section of land. Well you lease a section you lease two acres of high tide and you've got the whole section. Well we got the bid for them and we bid I think a dollar or something, a little better than that an acre. And normally it was going for 6 to 8 cents. So we felt like we would get it but just about two days before hunting season opened I got a letter from Judge Perez at (Name) Parish

office and it said that they'd open the bids and there was a duplicate bid, and they were going to have to re-advertise it a little later, but that was Judge (Name) rule (Name) Parish.

DH: And his son later.

WJ: And his son, he had two sons.

DH: Billy.

WJ: One of them, Joe (Name) and I, well he was hunting, he and his group were hunting and we didn't know who they were. But anyway, we pulled in and he shot a duck, he was off the refuge and he shot a duck that landed just on the refuge. And the fellow, by then he knew who we were, he had joked would he go get the duck. Joe said, "Do I look like a retriever?" Of course I thought he did. He had some more hunters scattered out, we could hear them shooting; this was just before closing time, so we started to head going that way.....

End of Part 1